

HCS HB 137 -- COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR FEE OFFICES

SPONSOR: McCaherty

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Emerging Issues by a vote of 12 to 0. Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Select Committee on General Laws.

This bill prohibits the Commissioner of the Office of Administration from awarding points on a request for proposal for a contract license office to a bidder for a return-to-the-state provision offer.

The Director of the Department of Revenue must follow the bidding procedures provided by law and establish the rules necessary to implement the procedures.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will prevent the unethical practice of paying the state in exchange for its grant of a monopoly fee office privilege. Currently, 10 of 200 points can be awarded directly on the basis of fee remission to the Department of Revenue, and it is also possible for the subjective factors to take fee returns into account. Fee offices should be based on experience, customer service, and potential for charitable contributions.

Testifying for the bill were Representative McCaherty; Missouri State Auditor's Office; Lance Mayfield; Paul J. Wrabec; Crystal Webster, Breast Cancer Foundation of the Ozarks; Jim Murphy; and D. J. Koester.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that the "return to state" portion of the fee office bid consists of moneys that go to the General Revenue Fund and are subject to appropriation. The practice of bidding and awarding points based in part on the "return to state" provision is currently subject to litigation.

Testifying on the bill was Department of Revenue.